



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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GENERAL BONDING SUBCOMMITTEE

General Law Committee
February 7th, 2017

Testimony in Support of H.B. 5733

An Act Requiring Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Companies To Package Opioids Dispensed In The State Blister Packs.

Chairman Baram; Co-Chairs Leone and Witkos; Vice Chairs D'Agostino, Kissel, and Larson; Ranking Member Smith; and distinguished members of the General Law Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of **H.B. 5733, An Act Requiring Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Companies To Package Opioids Dispensed In The State Blister Packs.**

I introduced this bill in order to address the serious opioid crisis that is plaguing the State of Connecticut. This bill seeks to limit inappropriate access to opioids and prevent the tampering and incorrect dispensing of these drugs. Meanwhile, this proposal avoids over-regulating access to opioids for those who legitimately need these medications.

Requiring opioids to be dispensed in state blister packs would make it substantially easier for pharmacists to accurately provide the correct quantity of the drugs to consumers. Blister packs contain the name and quantity of the medication printed on the outside of the packaging, which would significantly limit accidentally dispensing incorrect opioids.

All blister packs contain a specific quantity of doses, which would establish prescription guidelines for doctors and limit the possibility of over-prescribing opioids. Most importantly, blister packs would make it much more obvious for consumers to detect whether a teenager tampered with the medication and consumed the drugs since the remaining quantity would be readily identifiable.

Requiring opioids to be dispensed in state blister packs is a reasonable and necessary measure to take to begin to solve the serious opioid abuse problem that is affecting so many. I urge your support of House Bill 5733. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I welcome any questions you might have for me.